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Biographical Sketch

. . . OF . . .

Hon. Archibald Bulloch,

President of Georgia

1776-77.

ARCHIBALD BULLOCH.

President of Georgia, 1776-'77.

AND FAMILY.

To left his eldest son Captain James Bulloch. To right the President's wife Mary De Veaux, daughter of Hon. Colonel James DeVeaux. The baby, Archibald Stobo Bulloch. The girl, Jane Bulloch.

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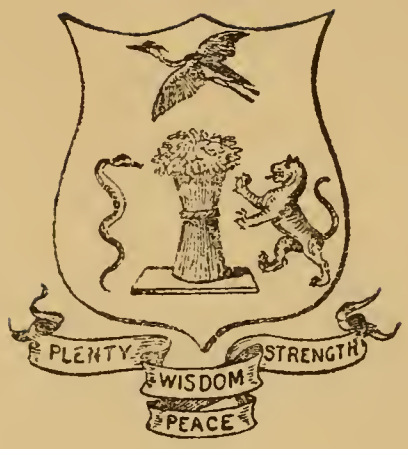
To My Kinsman

WYMBERLEY JONES DeRENNE,

Of WORMSLOE, Esq.

(Near Savannah, Ga.)

By the Author J. G. B. BULLOCH, M.D.



The name Bulloch is confined chiefly to Baldernock, in Sterlingshire, where the records show it to be at least 400 years old, and it is said to be derived from Balloch or Beal-ach meaning the outlet of a lake or glen, and in the registers the same individual is spelt Balloch and Bulloch.

The first American ancestor was James Bulloch who is found in South Carolina in 1729, where at his plantation he entertained General Oglethorpe the founder of Georgia. He removed to the colony of Georgia where his only son Hon. Archibald Bulloch became a man of great prominence in the new colony.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

Hon. Archibald Bulloch,

President of the Province of Georgia

1776-77.

THOUGH there were many men of sterling integrity, bravery and worth during the Revolutionary period, there came a time, asoften happens,when one was needed who could steer the barque through shoaly places, avoid sunken rocks and safely guide her between Scylla and Charybdis. The people of the infant colony of Georgia were divided and it required a man who could unite all parties and safely pilot through many a tortuous channel the young, struggling colony. Apparently there was but one man who could accomplish this task and only one who could keep clear of the breakers and land her in a port where she could be, though with difficulty, anchored in a safe harbor. This man was Archibald Bulloch.

Hear what the historian says of him:—

(*a*) "So great was the alarm, and so imminent the danger, that a large part of the militia of the State were ordered into service, and a camp was formed at Medway Meeting-house. The rest of the militia were commanded to hold themselves ready to turn out with arms at a moments warning, while the President, finding it sometimes impossible to collect the Council of Safety, was desired, by a resolution of the Council, passed on the 22d of February, 1777, to take upon himself the whole executive powers of government, calling to his assistance not less than five persons of his own choosing, to consult and advise with on every urgent occasion, when a sufficient number of councillors cannot be convened to make a board"

This was giving to the President extraordinary powers; but the Council knew the prudence and reliability of the man to whom they intrusted them, and hence confided fully in his wisdom and patriotism. Mr. Bulloch did not long hold these dictator-like powers; for, before the close of the month he died, and Button Gwinnett was elected to succeed him as President of the Council of Safety.

Mr. Bulloch seemed to be just the man for the critical time in which he lived, and for the responsible station which he held. He was one of the foremost to assert and maintain the liberties of his country, even before the rupture with Great Britain, and when the friends of American rights in Georgia were few and fearful. When Bryan had been ejected from the Governor's Council; and Wylly from the clerkship; and Jones from the Speaker's chair; when it was hazardous to come in collision with the royal power, and provoke the wrath of a King's Governor; when it was almost treason to talk the honest sentiments of a freeman, Archibald Bulloch and three others came out, over their own signatures, with a call for a meeting of those opposed to the unjust acts of England, and anxious for a redress of their grievances.

(*b*) "Though Governor Wright and most of his Majesty's officers had left Georgia; though the royal authority was entirely overthrown; though a new government had been organized by the will of the majority, yet there were many disaffected persons resident in the province, and many causes of internal and external alarm. These demanded of the new executive a firmness tempered with prudence, and a sagacity blended with wisdom, that could only belong to one who thoroughly understood his position, and who, rising above all personal and party schemes, dared to carry out the requirements of duty, and maintain that supremacy which the tumult of the times demanded. Mr. Bulloch proved himself worthy of his trust; diligent, active, unflinching, he sustained himself in the executive chair with an ability suited to the station, and an energy adequate to the crisis. His modesty and republicanism were very happily displayed at his first assumption of executive power. When Colonel McIntosh, the commander of the Continental battalion in

Savannah, tendered President Bulloch the militay courtesy which had usually been paid to Governor Wright, and posted a sentinel at his door, he, addressed him a note, saying, "I beg you will immediately order the sentinel to be withdrawn from my door; the grenadiers are already removed, in consequence of my orders. I act for a free people, in whom I have an entire confidence and dependence, and would wish upon all occasions to avoid ostentation."

That Archibald Bulloch was able to take the lead in actual warfare as well as in legislative matters is well illustrated by the following incident:

(*c*) "Finding that the houses on Great Tybee Island afforded comfortable shelter for the King's officers and tory refugees, the Counsel of Safety resolved to send a detachment of troops there, to destroy them and rout the tories. The execution of this order, rendered perilous by the peculiar situation of the place, and the protection afforded by the men-of-war, was committed to Archibald Bulloch, who, with a party of men composed of detachments from the riflemen, light infantry, fusiliers, volunteers, and a few Creek Indians, burnt all the houses, except one, in which was a sick woman and several children, killed two marines and one tory, and took one marine and several tories prisoners. The Cherokee man-of-war and an armed sloop kept up an incessant fire upon the party; but none of them were injured, and they retired from the island in perfect safety. Hitherto the Georgians had only heard of British aggressions; but now their own soil was moistened with the blood of the slain; their quiet homes had been assailed, their property pillaged, and their province threatened with devastation and ruin, the crisis had arrived, they met it like heroes."

(*d*) "In the mean time the Provincial Congress, which had been called to meet on the 20th of January, 1776, at Savannah, was opened, on Monday, the 22d, by a sermon from the Rev. Dr. Piercy, and was organized by the choice of Archibald Bulloch as President. The principal business of this Congress was the election of delegates to attend the Continental Congress; and on the 2d of February, Archibald Bulloch, John Houstoun, Lyman Hall, Button Gwinnett and

George Walton, were duly chosen, to whom, three days later was given the following letter of instruction, brief, indeed, but pertinent, and exhibiting an enlarged and unsectional spirit.

"GENTLEMEN:—Our remote situation from both the seat of power and arms, keeps us so very ignorant of the councils and ultimate designs of the Congress, and of the transactions in the field, that we shall decline giving any particular instructions, other than strongly to recommend it to you that you never lose sight of the peculiar situation of the province you are appointed to represent; the Indians, both south and northwestwardly, upon our backs, the fortified town of St. Augustine made a continual rendezvous for soldiers in our very neighborhood; together with our blacks and tories with us; let these weighty truths be the powerfnl arguments for support. At the same time we also recommend it to you, always to keep in view the general utility, remembering that the great and righteous cause in which we are engaged is not provincial, but continental. We, therefore, gentlemen, shall rely upon your patriotism, abilities, firmness, and integrity, to propose, join, and concur, in all such measures as you shall think calculated for the common good, and to oppose such as shall appear destructive.

"By order of the Congress.

"ARCHIBALD BULLOCH,
President.

"Savannah, April 5, 1776."

We have endeavored to show by actual historical evidence that President Bulloch was the only man of that time who was able to unite all the opposing elements among the patriots and thus helped to carry the colony through a dangerous period of its existence, and that but for him alone the probability was that Georgia would have remained a Royal Colony.

The State therefore owes a debt of unceasing gratitude to this illustrious stateman, soldier and patriot, unflinching, brave, loyal and true, who but for official duties at home would have signed the immortal Declaration of Independence, and who really did sign the Secret Compact of November 9,

1775, which was undoubtedly the secret or first Declaration of Independence leading to the final act of proclamation of a free people.

As it was he died in the very harness of executive authority, signed the first Constitution of Georgia as a State, was the first man to read the Declaration of Independence in Georgia, and was three times elected President of the Provincial Congress and at last President and Commander-in-Chief of the Province.

A county, a galley or war vessel and a fort were named after this illustrious citizen of Georgia.

The following positions were held by him :

Commissioner or Surveyor of Roads.

Vestryman of Christ Church Parish, 1775.

One of the Committee from the Lower House to correspond with Franklin for redress of grievances, April 11, 1768.

Elected Speaker of the Royal Assemby or House of Commons, April 21, 1772.

On Committee to sympathize with the Bostonians when resisting unjust acts of oppression by the Mother Country.

Elected July 4, 1775, President of the Provincial Congress of Georgia.

Elected July 7, 1775, delegate to Continental Congress.

Leads a detachment to Tybee Island as President in command of a company and amid great danger expels the foe from the Island.

Attends and takes his seat in the Continental Congress and on November 9, 1775, signs the secret Compact or Declaration.

Again on January 20, 1776, elected President of Provincial Congress.

Again elected delegate to Continental Congress, February 2, 1776, and would but for official duties at home have signed the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776, having been a delegate to that Congress.

July 4, 1776, again elected President of the Provincial Congress, and by virtue of the resolution adopted by that Congress on April 15, 1776, was made President and Commander-in-chief of Georgia as well.

(*e*) The resolution adopted was as follows:—

1st. That there shall be a President and Commander-in-Chief appointed by ballot, in this Congress, for six months, or during the time above specified.

2d. That there shall, in like manner and for the like time be also a Council of Safety, consisting of Thirteen persons (besides the five delegates to the General Congress), appointed to act in the nature of a Privy Council to the said President or Commander-in-Chief.

3d. That the President shall be invested with all the executive powers of government, not inconsistent with what is hereafter mentioned, but shall be bound to consult and follow the advice of said Council, in all cases whatsoever, and any seven of the said Council shall be a quorum for the purpose of advising.

Pursuant to above resolutions Archibald Bulloch was elected President and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of Georgia.

The next election was accordingly held six months later and met for the especial purpose of adopting a Constitution suitable to form a state government. After several adjourned meetings it was finally drafted, adopted and ratified in convention February 5, 1777, and signed by President Bulloch.

Scarcely had this important document been signed when the state was called upon to mourn the loss by death of this true and tried friend of Liberty who died in February, 1777.

(*f*) "His death was a heavy loss to Georgia, at a moment when it could hardly be borne for all parties of Liberty men were united on him, and on him alone; and when he was called hence, by the fiat of God, divisions and discord rent the ranks of the Americans, and it was not until blood had flowed, and years of animosity passed, that harmony again pervaded the councils. Had not Mr. Bulloch been so deeply engaged in provincial affairs, as to prevent his attendance at Philadelphia in the Congress of 1776, to which he was elected his name would have gone down to posterity as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independance. If he failed, however, of securing this distinction, he gained the

honor of being the first republican Governor of Georgia—the people's first choice to their highest office—one who sacrificed his private views for the public good, and who died in the very harness of executive authority, revered and cherished by his native province."

The following letter shows the esteem in which he was held by his associates.

(*g*) "To His Excellency Archibald Bulloch, Esquire, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of Georgia. The address of the Council of Safety for the said Province.

"*May it please your Excellency:*

"The long session of the late Congress, together with the season of the year, called particularly for a speedy recess; and the House having adjourned while you were out of town it becomes more particularly necessary for us to address your Excellency. All, therefore, with unfeigned confidence and regard, beg leave to congratulate, not only your Excellency on your appointment to, but your country on your acceptance of, the supreme command in this province.

"It would be needless and tedious to recount the various and yet multiplying oppressions which have driven the people of this province to erect that government which they have called upon you to see executed; suffice it, then, to declare, that it was only an alternative of anarchy and misery, and, by consequence, the effect of dire necessity. Your Excellency will know that it was the endeavor of the Congress to stop every avenue of vice and oppression, lest the infant virtue of a still more infant province might in time rankle into corruption; and, we doubt not that, by your Excellency's exertions, all the resolutions made or adopted by Congress will be enforced with firmness without any regard to any individual, or any set of men; for no government can be said to be established while any part of the community refuses submission to its authority. In the discharge of this arduous and important task, your Excellency may rely on our constant and best endeavors to assist and support you.

Archibald Bulloch was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1729–30, and died February, 1777, as President of Georgia, not as stated by some, President of the Executive Council, but as President of the Province and State of Georgia, as such elected and also designated as such by the Provincial Congress, and by the Council of Safety.

He received a liberal education, was a lawyer by profession and a planter.

His father, James Bulloch was a man of considerable parts, holding the following positions: King's Justice of the Peace for Colleton County, S. C., 1735; Special Agent to the Creeks, under the Great Seal, 1740; Member of the South Carolina Colonial Assembly or Legislature, 1754, and in Georgia Justice for Christ Church Parish in October, 1767, and member of the Provincial Congress of 1775.

He married Jean Stobo, daughter of Rev. Archibald Stobo and their only son became, as has been seen, a prominent man in Georgia. He also had two daughters, Mrs. Josiah Perry amd Mrs. Henry Yonge.

Archibald Bulloch married on Tuesday, October 9, 1764, Mary DeVeaux, who was born January 26, 1748, daughter of Honorable Colonel James DeVeaux, of Shaftesbury, Esquire, in Georgia, a gentleman of prominence in the Colony, a Colonel and Senior Judge of the King's Court in 1760, who married Anne Fairchild, grand-daughter of Landgrave Edmund Bellinger of Carolina.

The issue of this marriage were four children.

I James Bulloch.
II Archibald Stobo Bulloch.
III Jane Bulloch.
IV Wm. Bellinger Bulloch.

I. James Bulloch, born 1765, died February 9, 1806, at an early age, espoused the cause of the colonists, and was a Captain in Virginia State Garrison troops, Colonel George Muter, 1778–'81, was honorably retired, returned to Georgia, became Captain of Georgia troops, 1790, was clerk of Superior and Inferior Courts, then the chief courts in Georgia, and was elected an honorary member of the Georgia State So-

ciety of the Cincinnati. He married September 13, 1786, Anne Irvine, daughter of John Irvine and Ann Elizabeth Baillie, and had:—

(1) John Irvine Bulloch, attorney-at-law and clerk of the Federal Court, who married January 1, 1814, Charlotte, daughter of Judge John Glen, and Sarah, daughter of Doctor Noble Wymberley Jones, and had among others:—

(1) Dr. William Gaston Bulloch, a distinguished surgeon and physician, Surgeon-Major C. S. Army, alderman and author, born August 3, 1815; married November 6, 1851, Mary E. A. Lewis, and had:—

I. Joseph G. B. Bulloch married Eunice H. Bailey—issue.

II. R. H. Bulloch

III. Emma H. Bulloch.

NOTE.—Anne Irvine who married James Bulloch, Jr., was the daughter of Dr. John Irvine, son of Charles Irvine, of Cults, a cadet of the Drum family and his wife Euphemia Douglass daughter of John Douglass Laird, of Tilquhillie.

Dr. Irvine married Ann Elizabeth daughter of Colonel Kenneth Baillie a descendant of Baillie of Dunain.

(2) James Stephens Bulloch, second son of James Bulloch, Jr. and Anne Irvine, was Deputy Collector of Port of Savannah, Major of Chatham Battalion, President of U. S. Branch Bank, one of the directors of a company under whose auspices the first steamship, Savannah, crossed the Atlantic, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Union Society. He married first, December 31, 1817, Esther daughter of Hon John Elliott, U. S. Senator, and Esther Dunwody and had:—

(1) James Dunwody Bulloch, Lieutenant in U. S. Navy, Captain and Confederate States Naval agent abroad, author of the Secret Service of the C. S. Navy, and styled by some "Admiral Bulloch."

James Stephens Bulloch married 2nd, Martha Elliott, on May 8, 1831, widow and second wife of Hon. John Elliott, and daughter of the distinguished citizen, General Daniel Stewart, and had:—

1. Anna Bulloch, married James K. Gracie.
2. Martha Bulloch, married Theodore Roosevelt, Senior.
3. Irvine S. Bulloch, Sailing Master of the Alabama, when in the fight with the U. S. S. Kearseage, off the coast of France ; married Ella Sears.

(1) Theodore Roosevelt and Martha Bulloch, had :—

I. Anna Roosevelt married Admiral W. S. Cowles—issue.

II. Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States married first, Alice Hathaway Lee; married second Edith Kermit Carow.—issue by both marriages.

III. Elliott Roosevelt married Anna Hall—issue.

IV. Corinne married Douglas Robinson—issue.

(3) Jane Bulloch, daughter of James Bulloch, Jr. and Anna Irvine married John Dunwody and was ancestress of the Dunwodys of Roswell, Ga.

(4) Anne Bulloch, d. s. p.

II. Archibald Stobo Bulloch, second son of President Archibald Bulloch and Mary DeVeaux, was also a prominent citizen, occupying the following positions :—One of the Justices of the Inferior Court, Collector of the Port, Navy Agent, Alderman of Savannah in 1812, Fire Master. He married Sarah Gleu, November 11, 1793, daughter of Judge John Glen and Sarah Jones, daughter of Dr. Noble Wymberley Jones.

Among his children were :—

(1) Hon. William Hunter Bulloch, editor of the "Georgian", member of the State Legislature, Lieutenant in Indian War, Clerk of Court and of County Commissioners, and a lawyer and one of Alderman of Savannah, Ga.

(2) Jefferson Bulloch, Lieutenant in the Savannah Volunteer Guards.

III. Jane Bulloch, daughter of President Bulloch and Mary DeVeaux, married James B. Maxwell, and had :—

(1) William Bulloch Maxwell, author.

IV. William Bellinger Bulloch, the youngest son of President Bulloch, was a very distinguished citizen, Captain of Heavy Artilery, 1812, Mayor of Savannah, Collector of

Port, Solicitor General of the State, United States District Attorney, Second Vice-President of the Georgia Historical Society. He was high up in the Masonic Fraternity and in the Church, was President of the United States Branch Bank in Georgia, and United States Senator and also a member of both Houses of the Georgia Legislature.

He married 1st April 27, 1798, Harriet DeVeaux.

He married 2nd February 5, 1807, Mary Young, and by both had issue, although his line is now extinct. The only members in the male line of this ancient family are the descendants of Dr. Wm. Gaston Bulloch of Savannah, and one son of Capt, James D. Bulloch of the C. S. Navy.

We herewith append a letter written by John Adams afterward President of the United States, which shows the esteem in which Archibald Bulloch was held and how valuable his services were to the colonists.

MR. ADAMS TO GOVERNOR BULLOCH.

Philadelphia, July 1, 1776.

DEAR SIR:—Two days ago I received your favor of May 1st. I was greatly disappointed, Sir, in the information you gave me, that you should be prevented from revisiting Philadelphia. I had flattered myself with hopes of your joining us soon, and not only affording us the additional strength of your abilities and fortitude, but enjoying the satisfaction of seeing a temper and conduct here, somewhat more agreeable to your wishes, than those which prevailed when you were here before. But I have since been informed, that your countrymen have done themselves the justice to place you at the head of their affairs, a station in which you may perhaps render more essential service to them, and to America, than you could here.

"There seems to have been a great change in the sentiments of the colonies since you left us, and I hope that a few months will bring us all to the same way of thinking.

"This morning is assigned for the greatest debate of all—a declaration, that these colonies are free and independent states, has been reported by a committee, appointed some weeks ago for that purpose, and this day, or to-morrow, is to

determine its fate. May Heaven prosper the new-born republic, and make it more glorious than any former republics have been.

"The small-pox has ruined the American army in Canada, and of consequence the American cause. A series of disasters has happened there, partly owing I fear to the indecision at Philadelphia, and partly to the mistakes or misconduct of our officers in that department. But the small-pox, which infected every man we sent there, completed our ruin, and compelled us to evacuate that important province. We must, however, regain it some time or other.

"My countrymen have been more successful at sea, in driving away all the men of war completely out of Boston harbor, and in making prizes of a great number of transports and other vessels.

"We are in daily expectation of an armament before New York, where, if it comes, the conflict must be bloody. The object is great which we have in view, and we must expect a great expense of blood to obtain it. But we should always remember, that a free constitution of civil government cannot be purchased at too dear a rate, as there is nothing on this side the New Jeruselem of equal importance to mankind.

"It is a cruel reflection, that a little more wisdom, a little more activity, or a little more integrity, would have preserved us Canada, and enabled us to support this trying conflict, at a less expense of men and money. But irretrievable miscarriages ought to be lamented no further, than to enable and stimulate us to do better in the future.

"Your colleagues, Hall and Gwinnett, are here in good health and spirits, and as firm as you yourself could wish them. Present my compliments to Mr. Houstoun. Tell him the colonies will have republics for their governments, let us lawyers, and your divine, say what we will.

"I have the honor to be, with great esteem and respect, Sir, your sincere friend and most humble servant,

(Signed) "JOHN ADAMS.

"His Excellency,

"ARCHIBALD BULLOCH, Esq., of Georgia."

Captain James D. Bulloch married 1st Lizzie Caskie of Richmond, Va., by whom he had no issue.

He married 2nd, Harriot Cross, widow of Joseph Foster, Esq., planter, and daughter of Brigadier General Osborne Cross, U. S. A., of Maryland and had issue.

I. James D. Bulloch
II. Jesse Bulloch, married Maxwell Hyslop Maxwell of Scotland.
III. Dunwody Bulloch.
IV. Stewart Bulloch.
V. Martha Louise Bulloch.

Family of Cross.

Brigadier General Osborne Cross was of an old Maryland family of Prince George County. General Cross married Louise Schaumburg, daughter of Colonel Bartholomew Von Schaumburg, a German Count of the noble family of the name and of one of the oldest in Germany. The Count was the Godson and ward of Landgrave Frederick William to whom he was closely connected.

General Osborne Cross and Louise Von Schaumburg had:

I. Harriott Cross married 1st, Joseph Foster, married 2nd, Captain James Dunwody Bulloch.
II. Julia Louise Cross married John Clemson.
III. Lieutenant Edwin Cross, U. S. A.
IV. Annette Cross married Captain S. Grosvenor Porter, a brother of Mrs. C. V. S. Roosevelt.

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